

Hawke senses election victory

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (AP) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Sunday it appeared his Labor Party had prevailed in parliamentary elections, while his opponent Andrew Peacock conceded that his conservative coalition had probably been beaten. Saturday's parliamentary vote was a hard-fought contest between Hawke's ruling party and Peacock's coalition. Hawke, speaking a day after the vote, told a television interviewer he would be able to rule even with a one-seat majority. "I hope it's a bit better than that. It will give a sense of discipline for sure and we can do it," said Hawke, 60, who has been prime minister for seven years. Peacock, 51, who led the Liberal Party in an opposition coalition with the National Party, initially said he too was confident of forming the next government. But later Sunday, he acknowledged that his coalition would probably fall short. "If you are setting a book I suggest the shortest odds would be regrettably on a hung parliament, followed then by a Labor government just ahead of a possibility of a coalition government," Peacock told reporters in Melbourne. It was Peacock's second bid for the prime ministership.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جordan Times يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)



E. German coalition talks stalled

EAST GERMAN (R) — A week after East Germany's first free elections, attempts to form a coalition government were stalled Sunday amid continuing allegations that top politicians were informers for the Stasi security police. Social Democratic (SPD) leader Ibrahim Boehme, the latest figure to be drawn into the growing scandal, denied a West German news report he had spied for the Stasi and urged the SPD to stop talks with other parties until the matter is resolved. "Despite these assertions and suspicions I declare that I never worked for or cooperated with the Ministry for State Security (Stasi)," Boehme said in an open letter. Boehme's SPD came a distant second to the tripartite Conservative Alliance for Germany headed by Christian Democratic (CDU) leader Lothar de Maiziere, who is trying to form a coalition to ease the path to German unity. Boehme called on de Maiziere to join him in putting on ice all talks — including those on forming a government — between parliamentary party groups until the "Stasi affair has been clarified," and said it "would be in the interests of all parties and of the country."

Volume 15 Number 4350

AMMAN MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1990, SHA'BAN 29, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

House panel condemns U.S. Senate resolution

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's foreign affairs committee Sunday met under the chairmanship of Tamer Mansi, and listened to a briefing by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem on Jordan's diplomatic moves on the Arab and international arenas to counter the dangers inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. The committee noted with surprise and dissatisfaction a resolution adopted by the United States Senate acknowledging Jerusalem as the "capital of Israel." The committee condemned the position and declared that it was inconsistent with the United Nations resolutions in this regard. The committee stressed the need for making an intensive international effort aimed at exposing this position and explaining its implications.

Assad returns home from Libya

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad returned Sunday from a visit to Libya marking the 20th anniversary of Britain's evacuation of its last Libyan base, officials said. They said Assad had talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi shortly before departing. "The discussions covered the situation in the Arab arena in light of new world developments and the dangers threatening the national interests of the Arab Nation and the best ways of confronting these dangers," one official said. While in Libya Assad also had talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Damascus and Cairo resumed diplomatic ties last December after more than a decade of strained relations.

Students stage protest in S. Yemen

ADEN (R) — Agitators shot at policemen during a student demonstration in South Yemen, seriously wounding one officer, the Interior Ministry said Sunday. A statement said "anti-democracy elements" infiltrated the peaceful demonstration Saturday in Al Mukalla, east of Aden, and fired at police on guard nearby. It did not say why the students were demonstrating but press reports said they wanted changes in the educational system.

U.S. Visa fraud case in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AP) — Five former employees of the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv and 12 other Israelis were charged Sunday with allegedly taking part in a scheme to counterfeit U.S. entry visas, Israel media said. The 17 are accused of conspiring in a counterfeiting ring that forged hundreds of entry visas in exchange for hundreds of thousands of dollars, the news agency Itim said, quoting formal charges filed Sunday. It said some of the visas were given to Israelis who had been barred from entering the United States because of criminal records. A U.S. embassy spokesman could not be reached for immediate comment, but U.S. officials said no Americans were believed involved when the alleged ring first came to light with arrests last September.

Groups issue threats in Tunisia

ANKARA (AP) — Two Muslim fundamentalist groups have threatened to kill personnel of the U.S., Turkish, Japanese, Dutch and Yugoslavian embassies in Tunisia. Turkey's semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Sunday. The agency said Turkish Ambassador Metin Karaca in Tunis told Anatolia by phone that the death threats by Islamic Revenge Organisation and Nahda were made in letters mailed to the embassies. It did not say when the letters were received. Karaca was quoted as saying the letters also threatened Tunisian Education Minister Mohammad Carfi, who is known to have secular views.

Upper House members lash out at American Senate resolution

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Sunday described as "biased and illogical" a resolution adopted Thursday by the U.S. Senate recognising occupied Jerusalem as the "capital of Israel" and called on the U.S. lawmakers to reconsider their country's vital interests in the Arab World.

A Senate member, however, said the impact of such a resolution on the Middle East peace process hinged on the reaction of the administration of George Bush which has adopted a "balanced and encouraging stance on the Middle East conflict."

The U.S. Senate resolution, which is not binding on the U.S. administration, acknowledges Jerusalem as the "capital of the state of Israel" and was adopted by voice vote.

Hamad Al Lawazi, speaker of the Jordanian Senate, told the Jordan Times the resolution reflected a "clear hegemony of the

Zionist lobby worldwide and Israel's influence in the American Senate."

"It also contradicts the U.S. role and responsibilities as a superpower towards bringing about a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict," Lawazi said.

He added that the decision came in sharp contrast to "the principles on which the American people based their constitution and human rights norms." He said the U.S. should play a "balanced and just role in its approach to all peoples, including the Palestinians and the Jews."

The Senate speaker said Jordan viewed the status of Jerusalem as the parameter for reaching a negotiated settlement. The Holy City should enjoy a "just status" to maintain the rights of the Palestinian people and "the rights of the followers of Islam, Christianity and Judaism," he said.

Hamad Al Farhan, rapporteur of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, said the U.S. Senate resolution had no "logical, political or moral justification."

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli soldiers, Palestinian students clash in Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops clashed with Palestinian students in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday during rallies to mark the deaths of two nationalists killed by soldiers, residents said.

The 120,000 Nablus residents declared a day of mourning after the army lifted a three-day curfew, clamped Thursday when troops shot dead two Palestinians wanted for suspected involvement in the 27-month-old uprising.

Residents said some 1,000 students attended two campus rallies to mark the deaths of Nasser Al Kanaan, 28, and Ibrahim Abu Ghadib, 19. They said scores suffered from gas inhalation but sources said no one was injured in the clashes.

Military sources said troops shot and wounded two Palestinians in separate clashes in Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, soldiers shot and wounded an 18-year-old during stone-throwing protests, residents said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, troops wounded two Palestinians, including a 17-year-old girl hit by

a bullet in the face, hospital officials said.

On Saturday, a six-year-old Palestinian boy was shot in the head as his family was tilling land near a West Bank Jewish settlement, and his parents said he was shot by settlers, the army said.

Tarek Mustapha Al Halabi was brought to Mokassed hospital in Arab Jerusalem in critical condition and underwent an operation to remove a bullet that entered his skull above his left eye, hospital officials said.

The army said the worst in the continental United States in 13 years, was reported at the Happy Land Social Club in the Bronx at 3:41 a.m. (0841 GMT). It quickly spread through the two-story brick building before being contained 2½ hours later.

Authorities Saturday, a large army force backed by helicopters raided the village of Anabta in the West Bank and rounded up dozens of Palestinian activists suspected of violent activity, the army said.

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Rescuers said Palestinian youths had apparently thrown stones at the settlers car and the Israelis opened fire hitting Halabi in the head.

The army said the incident occurred near the Israeli settlement of Itamar but that no troops were in the area at the time of the shooting. It said police were investigating the incident.

It was the second reported shooting of a Palestinian child in less than 24 hours. An eight-month-old infant girl was also shot in the head late Friday night.

Reporters said Palestinian youths had apparently thrown stones at the settlers car and the Israelis opened fire hitting Halabi in the head.

The army said the incident occurred near the Israeli settlement of Itamar but that no troops were in the area at the time of the shooting. It said police were investigating the incident.

Asked if regulations allowed soldiers to have personal contact with Palestinians, he added: "Certainly not the type of personal contact we are talking about here."

He has been removed from his post as a company commander in the West Bank and is being investigated," one military source said.

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2 Middle East News

Beirut mediation falters; new all-out war seen as inevitable

By Peter Smerdon
Reuter

BEIRUT — Licking its wounds from weeks of savage battles, Lebanon's Christian enclave appears doomed to all-out war as mediation fails to reconcile its two leaders.

Shells and rockets poured into villages east of Jounieh Port Sunday in the worst violation of a shaky ceasefire between General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militia leader Samir Geagea.

"This division on the ground and increasingly little real peace cannot continue," said one Western diplomatic source. "I fear Aoun and Geagea will fight again and soon."

Since March 2 when the ceasefire started, the guns have roared only intermittently. But mediators trying to find a political solution ensuring they stay muted have made little progress.

Security and diplomatic sources who say the tense impasse in the enclave cannot last, fear only more bloodletting might force Aoun or Geagea towards agreement.

"It is a sad reflection on us all," said another diplomatic source. "But it is even sadder for the Lebanese people who pay with their lives for their leaders mistakes."

In a month of fighting, which started Jan. 31 when Aoun ordered the LF to disarm and disband, at least 822 people were killed and 2,660 were wounded.

Neither the deaths and maiming nor the destruction of whole areas of the Christian enclave succeeded in pushing either man to make real concessions, the sources and security analysts said.

Aoun was still determined to continue his drive to gain full control of the enclave.

Geagea, whose 10,000-strong militia holds two thirds of the enclave, saw little reason to agree to Aoun's demands that his men join forces with the general's 15,000 soldiers and cooperate politically.

Aoun maintains that a single command is necessary for his crusade to expel Syrian troops from Lebanon which he halted in September after six months of devastating but unsuccessful warfare.

Immense effort has gone into

NEWS ANALYSIS

inter-Christian mediation and its failure underscores the feeling that a return to war is becoming the only option. Western ambassadors backing a Christian mediation committee have shuttled between Lebanese leaders, to no avail.

Mediators arranged for some

2 killed in Beirut fighting

BEIRUT (R) — Two people were wounded and 10 were wounded Sunday in the worst breach of a three-week ceasefire between warring Lebanese Christians vying for the leadership of their community.

Troops loyal to General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen fought for three hours with 155 mm Howitzers and multi-barreled rocket-launchers across seven villages in the Keserwan area, some 20 kilometres northeast of Beirut.

"We could feel the earth shaking under our feet. At some stages the shells were slamming in at the rate of one each second," said Rima Haji, a resident of east Beirut.

In announcing their decision, officials of the Malev Hungarian

Security sources said two people were wounded, including two soldiers and two militiamen, during the shelling which forced thousands of Christians to miss Sunday church services and shelter in underground shelters.

Beirut's Ad Diyar newspaper, based in the Christian enclave, said: "East Beirut is facing a decisive week. There will either be an agreement or an explosion."

Lebanon's highest Christian religious authority, Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir said in his Sunday sermon he was "ready to lead a popular uprising to restore peace and end the current situation."

Stench of burning grain lingers in Massawa

MASSAWA, Ethiopia (R) — A faint stench of burning grain and rotting corpses still lingers at St. George's Church in the rebel-held port of Massawa.

"Jesus Christ bless and forgive us," the worshipers sing, kneeling amid rubble in their war-ravaged church three weeks after rebels captured this city on the sweltering Red Sea coast.

Women swathed in white shawls quietly leave the morning mass and stroll past sandal-shod fighters of the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which wants an independent state in Eritrea province.

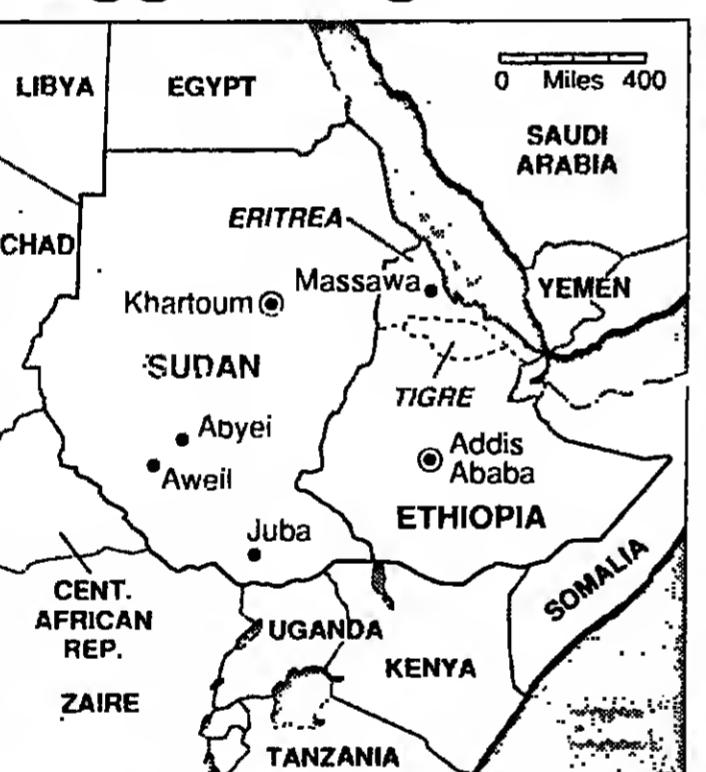
The guns are silent, air raids have stopped and hundreds of tanks have rumbled away from the charred buildings of this ancient city built on two islands linked to the mainland by a causeway.

Townspersons who fled during the battle for Massawa, Eritrea's main port, in mid-February are returning as bombed shops reopen and children laugh and play on wrecked tanks in the narrow, winding streets.

But across the bay, a massive stock of food aid sent by foreign donors to relieve famine in northern Ethiopia still smokes and smoulders.

"I heard the food was burning, that's why I can't come here, to try to save some grain from the fire," says Maybotoh Omer, clad in a stained cloak and turban and shaking a sieve of charred wheat.

Behind him, a sweating man digs into a mountain of charred burlap bags, each stamped "gift



of the European Community." Residents say Soviet-built MiG jets of the Ethiopian Air Force bombed Massawa for 10 days after the EPLF gained control on Feb. 16, destroying most of the food stocks in the port.

The grain had been brought in by relief agencies to feed some of the 4.5 million victims of drought and civil war in Ethiopia who face food shortages this year.

In the port, local people point to a 100-metre line of rotting wheat on the sea front where government soldiers stacked sacks of grain like sandbags to make fortifications.

The U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) says more than 50,000 tonnes of grain, enough to feed more than three million people for a month, were stored in Massawa.

The EPLF says it has salvaged 5,000 to 10,000 tonnes of good wheat, some of which has been distributed to local people.

Many families have bags of grain stacked on the verandas of their houses, in backyards and even in bedrooms.

At the depot, a man drags a 50-kilogram bag away from a new outburst of flames as visiting aid worker Chog Eu stumbles on a corpse half buried in the wheat.

Later, the rebels showed Eu a

pile of green, wooden boxes containing a jumbled mass of human bones, mostly legs and skulls. Bulky army boots still surround some of the skeleton feet.

"I can't believe it. I want to vomit," says Eu, a Korean-American who works for the U.S.-based aid group Grassroots International.

The rebels, who have been fighting nearly three decades for independence of Eritrea, say the boxes probably hold the remains of dissident Ethiopian soldiers and political prisoners.

Last year, the London-based human rights group Amnesty International accused Ethiopia of imprisoning thousands of political prisoners, torturing many of them and executing civilians after military trials.

Across the bay, in a tiny house in the main island's old Arab quarter, 24-year-old Gabreab Abraham peers out of his front door at a twisted, rusting United Nations truck while his grandmother roasts coffee on a charcoal stove.

Next week he will return to Massawa's bombed cement factory to help repair his old workplace. His brother is volunteering to clean up the neighbourhood.

"We're getting back to normal, but there is a lot of damage, a lot of work," he says with a smile.

Pope seeks aid for Eritrea

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II Sunday appealed to authorities in the Ethiopian province of Eritrea to allow the entry of relief supplies for those suffering from warfare and famine.

In his noon Angelus remarks from his balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square, the Pope noted that Eritrea has long been tormented by war, hunger and disease.

Asked during a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) whether this should include schools, he said: Of course, ev-

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KING MEETS FLEURY: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives at the Royal Court visiting French Air Force Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Jean Fleury in a meeting attended by the Royal Jordanian Air Force commander and French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard (Petra photo)

Government explains Housing Bank status, JEPCO deposits

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amendments to the Housing Bank law which were introduced by the government in 1975 and 1977 can be changed upon the request of Parliament if so desired because the legislature had not endorsed them, according to Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh.

He said that the bank's law came into being in 1974 through a law which was approved by both Houses of Parliament but successive amendments to it were not approved.

The Housing Bank is exempted from paying any taxes, duty or any other charges normally required from other banks in Jordan and paid to the treasury or municipalities, according to the minister.

"Under the provisions of the law, the Housing Bank has the right to claim its dues from a second party in a manner similar to that adopted in the process of arranging for the settlement of loans due to the treasury," the minister pointed out.

"Although the Housing Bank is a company, it must be understood that it is different from other commercial banks operating in the Kingdom as it is not registered as a company under the companies law," Jardaneh added.

Deposits with JEPCO

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher provided a reply to a query by Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawi on deposits entrusted with the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) by subscribers as guarantee before power is supplied.

The minister noted that payments in advance required by the company were needed to ensure that the subscribers will pay their dues and charges on power consumption.

"Normally reading of meters takes place after power is consumed, and could be settled one month later, which means a subscriber has two months to consume power before paying," Taher said.

"The company, in the mean-

time, has to pay for expenses and salaries and must have sufficient liquidity all the time," the minister added.

He said that the company does not deposit funds in any bank, and therefore does not receive any interest. It keeps the funds to pay for its expenses, he said.

The minister said that the JEPCO had a sum of JD 7,687,137 in total funds on Dec. 31, 1989 paid by the subscribers in advance, but by the same date subscribers were indebted to the company by a total of JD 9,730,899.

"It should be noted that JEPCO is controlled by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources under a bilateral agreement which gives the ministry the right to fix power consumption charges among other matters," he said.

He said that the ministry continually follows up on JEPCO's progress and performance and helps solve problems that might arise between the company on the one hand and the subscribers on the other.

The Lower House of Parliament was due to convene Saturday but a lack of quorum prompted the delay of the session until Monday.

The prime minister, several Cabinet members and many deputies were Saturday on a tour of the southern regions and were available for Saturday's session.

Tourism drive produces results

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 1,000 European tourists will begin arriving to Jordan Monday for visits to archaeological and tourist sites, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

The group which will be arriving on board four ships that will dock at Aqaba harbour is scheduled to tour the Nabatean city of Petra, and Wadi Rum in addition to Aqaba, the main touristic centre in the south.

The ministry's announcement said Sunday that a full entertainment programme had been prepared for the visitors on board their ships or in the main squares in Aqaba city between March 25 and 30.

Arrangements for the visit were worked out by the ministry in cooperation with the private sector's tourist offices both of which recently agreed on intensifying efforts to market Jordanian tourism abroad and to encourage maritime transportation of tourists to Jordan.

Aqaba has been attracting European visitors during the winter and spring seasons and according to Ministry of Tourism officials at least 10,000 French and 2,800 West Germans would have visited the winter resort among others during 1990.

According to tourism minister Abdul Karim Al Kababri nearly 600,000 visitors from Arab and foreign countries came to Jordan in 1989, registering an increase of 4.8 per cent over the number of visitors in the previous year.

The minister noted that on 71.5 per cent came to Jordan from Arab countries.

Recently the Ministry of Tourism made arrangements for a plan to create a private sector tourist agency funded by matching contributions from private investors, the government, the national airline Royal Jordanian and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition entitled "The Palestinian Uprising in Photos", displaying photos, cartoons, books and posters depicting the Palestinian uprising, at the University of Jordan.

* Exhibition of Jordanian-Palestinian heritage which includes costumes, paintings, photos and cassettes of national songs, at Al Abbasi Club, Zarqa.

* Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.

* The spring exhibition of Bani Hamida women's weaving project at the Bani Hamida House - Jabel Amman, Rainbow Street.

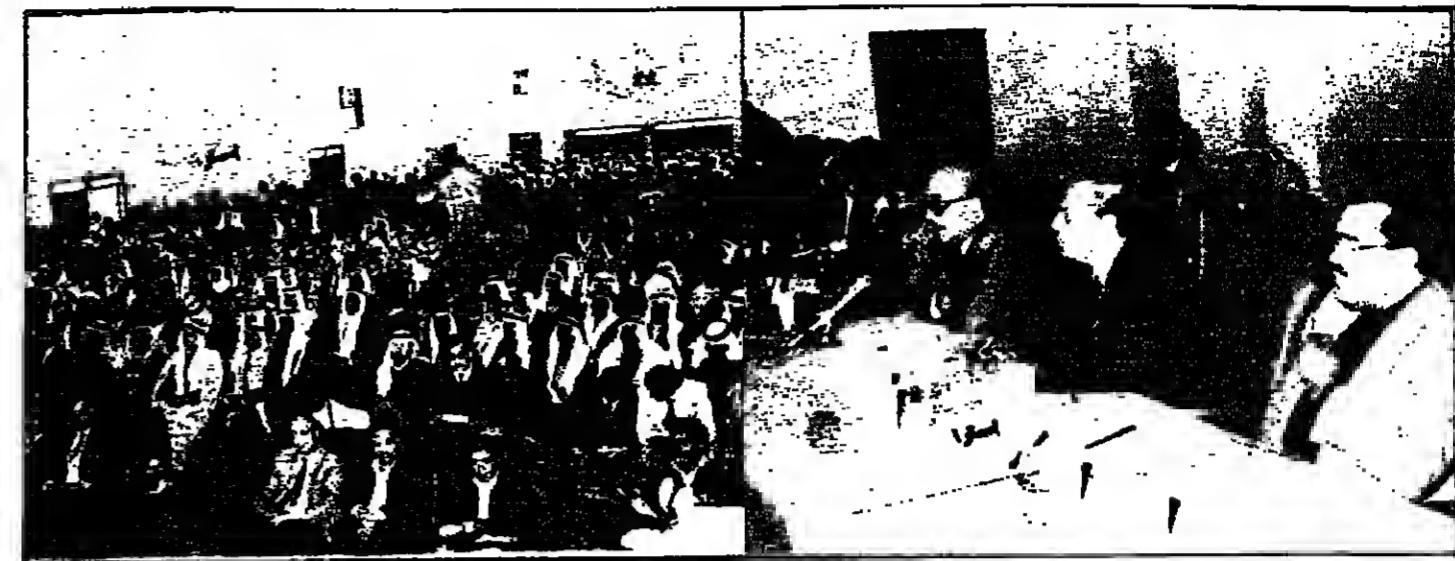
* Exhibition of paintings by Issam Tantawi at Alia Art Gallery.

FILMS

* Soviet documentaries entitled "Strange Theatre", "The Ballet Festival", and "The House" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

Badran, ministers continue mission in southern region

Interest-free loans for livestock



Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet members meet with residents in the southern region at a meeting held in Maan Sunday (Petra photo)

SHOBAK (Petra) — The government has decided to grant stock breeders in the southern regions of Jordan interest-free loans through the Agricultural Credit Corporation to help them promote their farming and increase the national livestock wealth, Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced Sunday.

The government will guarantee these loans and will pay interest on them, Badran said at a public meeting here on the second day of his three-day tour of the southern regions.

The government has decided to reschedule loans due from local village and municipal councils and has doubled the quantity of animal feed supplied to the governorates of Karak, Tafleah and Maan which have been badly affected by the current drought," Badran said.

He said that a special government committee had been set up involving the Ministry of Finance and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) to supervise the distribution of animal feed through specialised centres to be set up in the three governorates.

At the meeting, attended by the ministers of health, social development, public works, transport, education, water and irrigation, justice, agriculture, culture and municipal and rural affairs and the environment, representatives of the local inhabitants presented demands for improvement of health, agricultural and educational services as well as the supply of water and electricity.

These funds will be placed at the disposal of the local governors to help initiate projects that would reduce unemployment, and help promote agriculture, he said.

The prime minister said the funds could finance the planting of trees, building of canals, maintaining water springs and constructing stone fences. "In addition, plans have been laid for building earth dams and constructing agricultural roads," he said.

Part of the revenues from tourists visiting the Nabatean city of Petra will be allocated for projects in Wadi Musa and \$350,000

will be allocated for improving conditions for the local population, Badran announced.

According to the prime minister, concerned ministers will be touring the southern provinces again soon to conduct a detailed assessment of needs and the funds to be spent there.

Visit to Maan

Later Sunday, Badran visited Maan and the area's residents. Addressing the meeting, Badran said that the Arab countries of the Gulf, particularly Saudi Arabia, have provided genuine support for Jordan to help it overcome its difficult economic situation.

Badran noted that the southern regions of Jordan were suffering from poor rain and living a real crisis. He said the minister had been working hard throughout the last several days to find solutions to the problems facing the south.

Badran charged the governor of Maan with forming a central committee, comprising the governor himself, department direc-

tors, deputies and other people selected by the governorate's deputies, to carry out a number of projects designed to provide water and construct agricultural and village roads.

The prime minister stressed that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation would install water pumps on the water wells, available in the region, and would allow people to use them.

The ministry will also provide the governorate with water tanks to provide water to the remote villages, Badran said.

To deal with the animal feed problem, Badran pledged the government's support for a mobile fodder centre, which will distribute fodder to the various parts of the governorate. On the possibility of installing a modern electronic telephone switchboard, Badran said the government would try to obtain a loan to set up such a facility in Maan at the beginning of 1991. The prime minister also promised to provide a central refrigeration unit for keeping frozen meat and to grant livestock breeders interest-free loans to buy fodder.

Austerity not allowed to affect education

IRBID (Petra) — The government provides the necessary assistance to the Ministry of Education despite the economic difficulties and the government's cancelling of other projects in the country, Ministry of Education Secretary-General Munther Al-Masri said here Sunday.

Addressing a meeting of teachers and educationalists, Masri said the Ministry of Education plans to set up 400 schools in Jordan in the next four years and that 140 schools are already under construction.

He said the ministry was supporting the idea of creating a teachers' union aimed at promoting the teaching profession and to

Environment strategy in the making

AMMAN (J.T.) — A national environment strategy that was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of 1990 will take longer because of the parliamentary elections held in November 1989, according to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

The announcement was made by the Director of the ministry's environment department, Sufian Al-Tal, at a meeting with committees in charge of preparing for the strategy that is being formulated in cooperation with and help from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

Badran said that all the houses are located one to three kilometers away from the holy shrines where the pilgrimage rites are performed.

Zarqa said that all facilities were available at the rented houses.

The homes have been rented through the national pilgrimage corporation set up by the ministry to organise transportation and lodgings of pilgrims.

Zarqa recently visited Saudi

Ministry prepares pilgrimage facilities

Arabia and he inspected the rented houses and met with Saudi officials in charge of pilgrimage affairs.

The ministry last month announced that each pilgrim will have to pay JD 110 for this year's pilgrimage down from JD 130 last year and the fee covers lodgings and transportation by land to and from the holy places in Mecca and Medina.

Pilgrims start converging on the holy places in the second half of June for the pilgrimage, which culminates with the final rites in Mecca around July 2, 1990.

"Eid Al Adha, the feast of sacrifice which comes at the end of the pilgrimage, normally falls 70 days after the 'Eid Al Fitr ending the Holy Month of Ramadan, which is due to start on Wednesday.

American research students find room for marketing Jordan

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

ing to explore the country more and therefore spend more money.

On the other hand, Gray focused on marketing Jordan in Europe. One of his recommendations was to develop the country's rail system, and link it to the European system to make travel cheaper and easier.

According to Gray's research, about 50 per cent of the world's tourism is concentrated in Europe. Gray also pointed out that Jordan should explore the new markets in Eastern Europe. "It would be to Jordan's advantage because a tourism market does not exist at the moment."

Ross' and Gray's papers were part of a school competition where 25 students participated.

According to Fakhri Twal, manager of Jordan Hotel Association, the project resulted from a seminar that was held at the beginning of the school year, and was attended by William Kaven from Cornell University. Kaven's visit was shortly followed by Twal's to Cornell to discuss Jordan's problems in marketing and hotels. As a result, Kaven gave a class assignment on how to develop tourism marketing for Jordan. It was agreed that the Jordan Hotel Association and Royal Jordanian would fly the winners to Jordan.

According to Ross, the research, which took half a school year to accomplish, in-

volved visiting travel agents, the Embassy of Jordan in Washington D.C. and libraries. She says that they also coordinated with Twal and the Ministry of Tourism.

"We came across many difficulties, especially when we were dealing with travel agents," Gray said.

He explained that travel agents in America did not have much information about Jordan. "When we would ask about Jordan, they would recommend Egypt instead."

"But now that we have been in Jordan for ten days it is a shame that people in the United States do not know much about it," Gray said.

This is the first time Gray and Ross have travelled to the Middle East.

During their visit, Ross and Gray were received by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al-Hussein for an "exchange of ideas." They discussed with the Queen Petra, its potential and facilities and how to balance the two, how to develop hotel tourism while still preserving nature and the environment, in addition to talking about Wadi Rum.

The two students leave for the United States Monday, where they will follow up on their research. According to Ross, their last papers will be presented to the hotel association.

"But we hope to do further research for ourselves and hopefully publish it in the United States," said both of them.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Bangladesh, Greece

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Bangladeshi President Mohammad Ershad congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on Bangladesh's national day anniversary. The King wished the president continued good health and happiness and the Bangladeshi people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein also sent a congratulatory cable to Greek President Christos Sartzetakis, congratulating him on his country's independence day anniversary.

Jordan, Syria discuss tourism

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al-Kababri Sunday met with his Syrian counterpart Adnan Qouli and discussed with him scopes of bilateral cooperation and means of encouraging tourism investments in both countries. Kababri arrived in Damascus Sunday at the head of a Jordanian delegation on a three-day visit to Syria. In an arrival statement, Kababri said he would discuss with Qouli issues pertaining to the simplification of border and customs procedures, and formulating a tourism marketing policy. He also said that he would convey to Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al-Zubaidi a verbal message from Prime Minister Mudar Badran dealing with bilateral relations and the need to enhance the spirit of understanding that dominated the Joint Higher Jordanian-Syrian Committee meetings, held in Amman at the end of January.

JPMC to use KD 8 million loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday announced its approval of releasing a loan obtained by the government from the Arab Fund For Economic and Social Development to the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC). The eight-million Kuwaiti dinar loan will contribute to financing production processes in the company's projects.

Two to be hanged today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two convicts were scheduled to be hanged Monday morning at Swaqa prison for killing two Jordanians, identified as a four-year-old child, Samer Ahmad Deeb, and Mohammad Ali Ibrahim Omoosh. One of the convicts, Iaf Deeb, the second wife of Ahmad Deeb, was convicted of throwing her stepson, Samer, into a water well in a forest, thus killing him. The second convict, Mohammad Hamdan Abo Al-Foul, was found guilty of killing Mohammad Ali Ibrahim Al-Omoosh for a difference over chairmanship of Sarout village council in Zarqa governorate.

Conservation of archaeology — a national strategy

Following is the first part of a lecture delivered by Ghazi Saudi at the American Centre for Oriental Research in Amman. The second part will appear in Tuesday's issue of the Jordan Times.

THE 20th century brought fast economic development to all countries in the world, and in the same time rapid depletion of natural resources. This process endangers life on earth for the coming generations.

A world conservation strategy is needed to coordinate efforts, and to implement concerted actions at national and international levels, to sustain development and to support life in future.

It should be stated that preservation of environment and natural resources is the most difficult responsibility for Jordan. Our population has increased by eight folds in the last 40 years, mainly because of forceful eviction of Palestinians from their homeland. The city of Amman is unique in a sense that its population increased by 40 folds in 40 years.

Water which is the source of life is not adequate. By the year 2000 Jordan will not have enough drinking water for its growing population. Limited financial resources will have their impact in the years to come on the capability to keep sound environment.

Jordan has joined efforts to protect natural resources by preparing a national strategy. A law for the protection of environment will be based on this strategy outlines. A report was prepared by a working group on archaeological and cultural resources:

Scope and importance

Jordan is considered one of the earliest countries inhabited by man. Some sites like Abu Habil in the Jordan Valley dates back to 1.5 million years.

Around 60,000 to 70,000 archaeological sites could be counted. This fact made it very difficult to distinct between archaeological sites and non-archaeological sites. The entire country is a big museum. To protect these sites the starting point should be that ownership of a property entails responsibility

for antiquities on that property. Thus a comprehensive inventory of archaeological sites should be prepared. Details should be included in the register at the department of land and survey, and put on maps.

Three categories of archaeological sites could be outlined:

a) Sites of outstanding national importance to be preserved at all costs. The site and its environment should be equally protected.

b) Sites in poor condition and of marginal importance, which could be demolished after documentation.

c) Sites now demolished where protection is not considered appropriate.

To illustrate the scope of the problems of preserving archaeological sites, I will present a case study of a small village in Salt district. The name is Jal'ad.

Jal'ad village is part of Balqa Governorate; located 32 kilometres north west of Amman. Its altitude ranges between 600 and 800 metres above sea level.

Jal'ad is predominantly an Ayyubid-Mamluk Islamic village. Its name Jal'ad is derived from Arabic, which means hard rock. The fact that there are three water springs in the village, one of which is still yielding water, insured a semi-permanent human occupation in the site.

Jal'ad was visited by several scholars. The only dig that took place in the area happened in 1973 by Dr. Hussein Qandil. The finds are now exhibited in Salt Museum.

It is well established that Jal'ad could not be identified with Biblical Ramoth-Gilead or Mizpah (Gilliat of Jacob). This could be confirmed by the Oxford Biblical Atlas and other similar publications.

Jal'ad is the most important site in its region according to Dalman. The site is very rich in Roman, Byzantine and Islamic antiquities, more than 50 archaeological spots can be easily

identified.

The most important prominent of its remains is the Roman family mausoleum dating back to the second century A.D. Similar forms could be found in Quseimeh and Nuweijis. It has two niches and a rose window over the door.

The site also contains five water cisterns, one of which is of distinct engineering construction. It has a rectangular form and an opening for ventilation. The others have oval shape and are all carved in the rock with a plaster finish.

Also found is an old Roman wine press engraved in the rocks and is still in good condition. An Ayyubid olive press could also be seen in one of the caves. The old Necropolis of Jal'ad, described by

Jordan has joined efforts to protect natural resources by preparing a national strategy. A law for the protection of environment will be based on this strategy outlines. A report was prepared by a working group on archaeology and cultural resources

Conservation

In 1987 Jal'ad was given the status of a village with a local council. Only one of these nominated is able to read and write well. A plan for the village's infrastructure was created by an inexperienced architect. Methods applied were same as those in highly developed parts of the country.

Autostreets of 68 metres width were to cut the village from east to west. Another belt road of 20 metres width was planned to surround the village boundaries. This plan would have not only destroyed the archaeological remains in the village, it would have also damaged agricultural land already allocated for housing.

In spite of all protests the plan was approved with small adjustments. Dr. Ghazi Bishah, director of the Department of Antiquities, demanded that the Ministry of Rural Affairs should reconsider the plan to protect the archaeological sites.

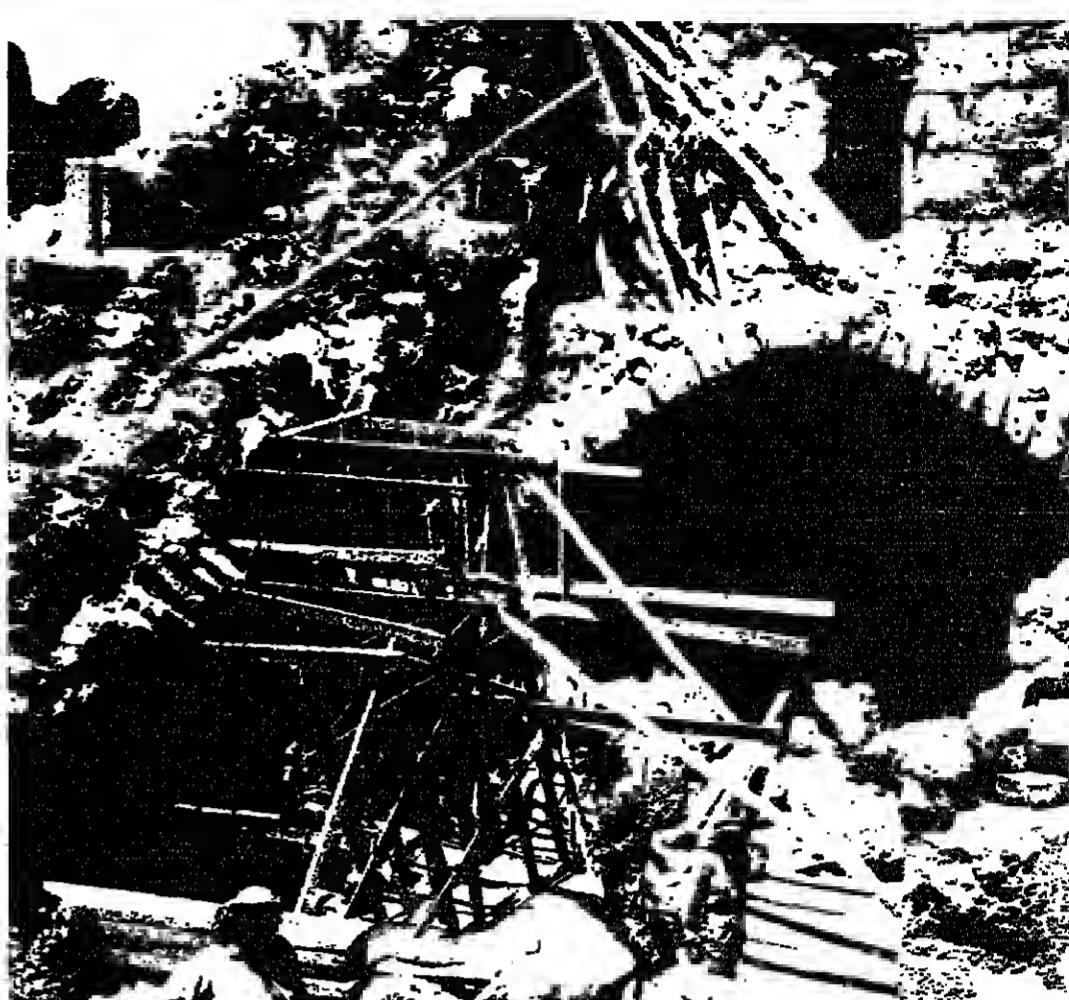
Jal'ad is also unique in its ecological nature which is apparent in its flowers and plants most of the known flora of Jordan could be found in and around the village. The surrounding woods are of great beauty where oaks, pistachios and kharoub trees are common. Some oak trees are 800 years old whereas several olive trees are more than 1000 years old.

In the last 15 years, at least 50 per cent of the woods were uprooted to plant olive trees. The face of Jal'ad is changing rapidly from green to an ugly grey-brown under this new development.

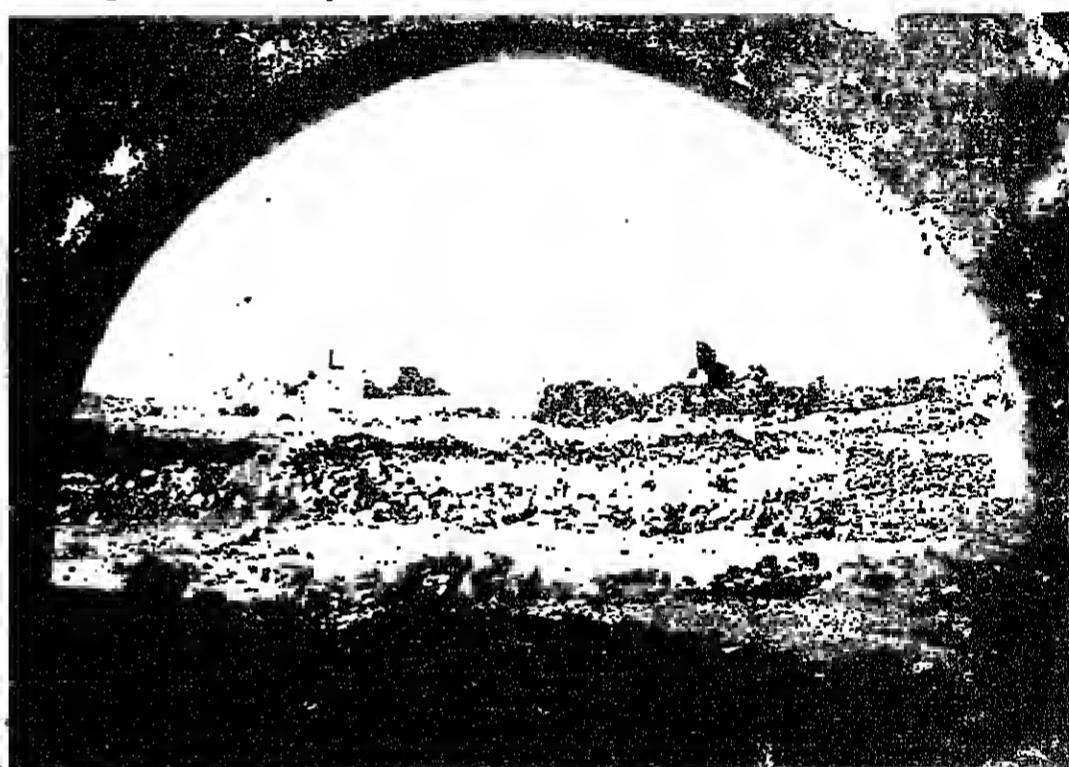
In 1980, a modern agricultural project was launched on the slopes of Jal'ad. The fertile land surface was fully bulldozed and the project ended in a total loss for investors in addition to the ecological damage. The whole area is now under the control of the Zarqa River Basin Project where better handling for the technological problems is expected.

Conclusions

1. Towns and villages of historical importance should be planned only after a survey by the Department of Antiquities to avoid further destruction. A representative of the department should be nominated in the Supreme Council of rural planning.
2. Land survey by the Ministry of Agriculture should be prepared to protect farm lands and woods in the villages. Rocky lands should be allocated for housing. A law should be enacted for this purpose.
3. Forest land is scarce and therefore must be protected. Fruit trees like pistachio or almonds could be planted in open spaces within the same area. Olive trees should not be planted on the cost of destroying forests in Jordan.



Almost every nook and corner of Jordan is full of archaeological riches and their preservation is one of the major responsibilities of the Kingdom's authorities.



Carnavalet museum — a place full of surprises

By Claire Thierry

THE YEAR of the bicentenary also meant a revolution, but, this time, a peaceful one, for the most Parisian museum, the Carnavalet, whose renovated and enlarged premises opened to the public last summer.

The Carnavalet museum, installed in a sumptuous private mansion in the Marais district (Madame de Sevigne lived there), had been slumbering since its creation in 1880. It mainly housed decorative and architectural pieces rescued from demolitions resulting from the considerable city-planning work which changed the face of the French capital last century.

Beneath the sumptuous decoration of this 16th century mansion, visitors can discover the history of Paris from its origins up until today, revealed by sculpture, paintings, photographs, objects and furniture. But the re-

serves contained many treasures which were out of sight for lack of space.

With the transformation of a neighbouring building, dating from the 17th century, the museum doubled its area, which now amounts to nearly 13,000 square metres and it can finally display most of its collections. The work took five years and was finished in the middle of the celebrations of the bicentenary of the French Revolution..., which gave the museum many of its riches. These are finally on show. The head curator, Bernard de Montgolfier, points out that "The most complete, most lively and most moving documentation on that crucial period is found here."

Coincidence or complicity, that unique collection on the revolution, which was cramped into three rooms, now has a complete floor to itself, in a residence having belonged to Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau, a deputy of the

nobility, won over to the revolution, who voted for King Louis XVI's death and died from it, assassinated for revenge, in 1793.

Thanks to the restoration, the rooms present the atmosphere of the period. Portraits of the heroes of the time pass before our eyes: Robespierre, Danton, Marat, La Fayette and Louis XVI (in his last portrait by Dureux). One can also see the royal family's furniture in the "Temple" prison, and the forty cut-out gouaches painted by Le Sueur, which are a real comic-strip of the Revolution. And then, bigged-upidied, Danton's shaving dish, the Dauphin's school-books and a model of the Bastille carved out of the very stone of that disgraced prison.

From the empire to the Belle Epoque, the 19th century is also amply illustrated with portraits of Talleyrand and Madame de Recamier, Chateaubriand's muse, Sainte-Beuve, a deputy of the

prince, scenes from Bohemian life in the Romantic period, and moving pictures from the revolutionary days Paris lived through in July 1830 and in 1848. And it is hard not to laugh at the astounding gallery of caricature-sculptures, in the form of statuettes, of personalities (writers, politicians, musicians, singers, etc.) from last century, carved by Danton's fierce chisel.

From the early 20th century, one will, above all, retain the very beautiful decorative pieces: the long-drawn-out curves of the drawing-room in the Cafe de Paris, made by the architect Henri Sauvage, in 1899; and the luxuriant Art Nouveau interlacings and stained-glass windows of Fouquet's jewellery shop, imagined, in 1900 by Alphonse Mucha. Madame de Wendel's vast ballroom is also astonishing, with its purple and silver decor, painted by the Catalan artist Jose Maria Sert, brilliantly rein-

tering the Italian baroque style on the theme of the meeting between the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon.

Other, more intimate, discoveries, among these reconstructions, include the rooms of writers. There is Marcel Proust's black and yellow room, covered in cork, the poet Anna de Noailles' from which a boudoir scent escapes, and Paul Lautaud's, which is realistic with its chamber pot and armchair whose worn velvet has known the claws of generations of cats.

This museum of charm and emotion has other surprises tucked away for its visitors (over 230,000 a year). There is a bookshop, a modernised reception area, a children's workshop and a graphic arts studio (with 300,000 items) which has been completely refurbished. By 1993, there are plans for an auditorium seating 170. — (L'Actualite en France).



The salon of Mrs. Wendel in Carnavalet Museum (photo by M. Dubroca).

Senators

(Continued from page 1)

almost all the American "legislators, albeit elected by U.S. citizens, largely reflect the views of international Zionism."

He said the resolution's impact on the peace process hinged on the reaction of the White House, which has recently shown flexibility as to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"President George Bush's recent declarations about the importance of keeping Jerusalem a united city and former President Jimmy Carter's remarks against settling Soviet Jewry in the occupied territories signal a positive sign from the American administration towards solving the conflict," he said.

Kuwait condemns U.S. move

Kuwait Sunday condemned as a severe blow to peace efforts the U.S. Senate resolution.

The Kuwaiti cabinet condemns "the raising of this issue by the Senate at this juncture and considers the move a crushing blow to peace efforts and a flagrant defiance of the international will in general and that of Arab and Islamic nations in particular," said the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Rashid Abdul Azz Al Rashid.

He made the statement following a regular weekly session of the cabinet.

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Kremlin fears wide unemployment danger

MOSCOW (AP) — Presidential advisers are concerned that drastic proposals to speed transition to a market economy could cause widespread unemployment and force the government to implement a sweeping welfare programme, a source said Saturday.

The main problem is how to guarantee employment and take care of the needy, said the source, who is part of the team developing the new proposal for President Mikhail Gorbachev. It all has to be worked out very carefully.

Despite the note of caution, the source gave no indication Gorbachev has backed away from his determination to press for radical measures to wrest the already sick economy from its downward slide.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the transition to a market economy may lead to a sharp increase in unemployment, which last year reached 27 per cent in some areas of the Soviet Union.

The source provided the first independent confirmation of a published report that a drastic, 17-point economic reform is being formulated following Gorbachev's accession to a new, stronger Soviet presidency. The report was circulated last week by the Soviet Interfax news agency, an affiliate of Radio Moscow.

The package, designed by a team of economists, includes freeing prices now set by state planners without regard to costs. Any lifting of price controls is expected to bring quick and dramatic inflation.

According to Interfax, the

package of proposed bills and executive orders also would involve a sell-off of many government-owned factories through stock sales to individuals and foreigners, and it would include steps to make the ruble convertible on world currency exchanges.

The source said the team working on the plan was encouraged by the example of Poland, which decided to adopt a market system as quickly as possible to shorten the inevitably painful transition period. Soviet leaders have preferred to be more slow and careful in their economic steps.

Poland's Solidarnosc government last year lifted price controls over a six-month period, which led to enormous price increases. But there are signs the initial chaotic reaction is abating.

Inflation in Poland dropped from a monthly rate of 60 to 70 per cent in January to a projected six per cent in March, once-empty stores have been stocked, and the Polish zloty has been made convertible thanks to a massive Western aid programme.

"Look in Poland it worked," the source said. "There are dangers, of course, and we have to be careful. But we don't have any other choice."

One such danger is unemployment. In Poland, the number of workers out of jobs jumped to 150,000 and may reach 400,000 as inefficient enterprises are closed, Polish experts say.

In the Soviet Union, efforts to streamline bloated factory payrolls are leaving millions of people without jobs. Last October, the Communist Party daily

Pravda said unemployment, which officially didn't exist under previous Kremlin leaders, reached 27.6 per cent in Azerbaijan and was 20 per cent or higher in the Central Asian republics of Tadzhikistan and Uzbekistan.

Immediately after his inauguration earlier this month, Gorbachev pledged drastic economic reform, and Western diplomats speculated that he needed the security and powers of the five-year term as president to risk the upheaval that might accompany severe measures.

Interfax Friday quoted experts as saying the public is unprepared for the sweeping changes contemplated.

"There can be no doubt that transition to a market economy is our top priority," said V. Belkin, an Academy of Sciences economist. "What worries me... is that it provides for an overnight introduction of the market the way they did in Poland. The model of that country may not work here, because public opinion is not prepared to accept it."

Belkin warned that serious social problems could result.

V. Mayevski of the academy's Institute of Economics also warned of the social ramifications of the planned economic steps.

"A sharp increase in prices cannot be ruled out, as happened in Poland, and there may be rampant unemployment, because the structure of production in this country is inadequate," he said.

"In the long run that scenario will lead to economic progress, but before that considerable sacrifice will have to be made."

the stock exchange by 1992 or 1993.

Taiwan has plans to put 19 of its state enterprises in private hands. All 45 have more than 200,000 employees and account for up to 30 per cent of total output.

In Pakistan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said last year her country would follow Britain's lead in selling stock in state-run industries to achieve broad-based ownership.

Japan started offering shares in the telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone four years ago.

South Korea's generally successful divestment programme includes the largest steel producer, other manufacturers, banks, utilities and trading firms.

Nowhere was the goal of privatisation given greater priority than in Malaysia.

Seven years after the programme was announced, however, only 21 government operations have gone private through direct sale of existing assets, public listing on the stock exchange, management contracts or temporary ownership arrangements.

They include the national airline, a lottery, public utilities,

shipping companies, highway construction projects, a television station and the concern responsible for removing garbage from Kuala Lumpur city hall.

Plans call for electric power and the railroads to move toward private ownership this year.

Senior officials talk for the first time, however, of poor progress, red tape, the need for a master plan and lack of enthusiasm among civil servants.

"Lack of understanding of the policy" hampers privatisation and it has not been carried out well, Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin said.

Too many civil servants are unsure of the objectives and methods, Daim said in a recent speech, but "this problem is being overcome. ...the government has already prepared a privatisation master plan."

Other officials cite resistance by labour unions, legal and financial obstacles, administrative problems and accusations of political favouritism.

Daim said the government once provided the equivalent of \$10.7 billion in loan guarantees for about 1,000 state companies. At least 246 were tagged for sale out of 434 studied by a team of foreign and domestic merchant bankers.

Conversion of the railroads is expected to be the big test. The 6,000-member railwaysmen's union of Malaysia has pledged to fight.

"How can we accept commercialisation of any sort when even in an advanced country like Japan, the system has cost the removal of 75,000 railway workers?" said union leader Abdul Gaffoor Ibrahim.

Malaysia's narrow-gauge, single-track system was offered for sale in 1986 for a token 1 ringgit (37 cents) in hopes private owners would improve service and achieve profitability. There were no takers.

Labour opposition also delays an ambitious programme in neighbouring Thailand, where planners saw denationalisation as a cure for inefficiency and an overburdened infrastructure.

About 5,800 port workers struck three times in six months against a government decision to let private firms operate at least part of a new deep-sea container port at Laem Chabang, 129 kilometres south of Bangkok.

Hong Kong has put its port, water supplies, post office, civil aviation and other essential services in private hands, but the British Crown colony reverts in 1997 to control by China, which has rejected private ownership.

"Political regimes that are based on privatised economies breed all forms of corruption," the Chinese Communist Party newspaper People's Daily said in December.

Public ownership has become "an irreversible trend," it said, and declared: "Capitalist privatisation determines that the capitalist gets the bigger interest and thus the workers become depressed and exploited."

OPEC, non-OPEC producers ponder future oil investments

MUSCAT (R) — For years dominated by questions of price and quotas, oil producers facing demand for huge future investment are now grappling with issues ranging from growing environmental pressures to the world's ageing tanker fleet.

Their first meeting in 1988 resulted a year later in some non-OPEC states agreeing to cut exports by five per cent in the second quarter of 1989 to help OPEC's efforts to support prices.

Production in non-OPEC countries is expected to drop or remain steady in the next 10 years, while OPEC plans to raise output considerably to meet the projected one to two per cent increase in demand.

OPEC sources estimate the Western world's oil demand will reach 55 million barrels per day (b/d) by 1995 from around 52 million now. It will then grow another three to four million b/d between 1995-2000.

OPEC and non-OPEC experts during their two-day meeting which began Saturday studied the following problems awaiting producers in the next 10 years:

— Where will the money come from to finance new investments to boost oil production capacity.

— How can prices be kept at a level of stimulate consumer de-

mand, while making reasonable profit at home.

— How much of the world's energy requirements be met by other sources of energy.

— Is it worth spending money on expensive new techniques to recover more barrels in mature oil fields,

— What will it cost to maintain existing oil facilities, refineries, export terminals and the world's aging tanker fleet.

— Will environmental pressures in Western countries lower oil and gas demand and push production and exploration costs up.

"One of the future issues will be to create a bridge between oil producers and consumer countries," Shaban said. "I am investing. I give some security for oil supply, I need some security for oil demand."

Another major topic discussed, based on a paper prepared by Mexico, was pricing mechanisms in the market, which link most oil prices to a few benchmark crudes.

Most producers criticise the current system because the quantity of the key crudes involved is getting smaller or is easy to manipulate, delegates said.

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

N. Yemen forecasts widening deficit

SANA (R) — North Yemen, on the threshold of unity with debt-burdened South Yemen, has forecast a budget deficit for 1990 of 5.16 billion riyals (\$600 million). Conservative North Yemen, which has oil income estimated at between \$500 million and \$700 million a year, had a 4.7 billion riyals (\$522 million) budget deficit in 1989. The North Yemeni news agency Sabc said President Ali Abdullah Saleh ratified the budget with projected revenue of 19.6 billion riyals (\$2.2 billion), compared to 16 billion riyals (\$1.8 billion) in 1989. Sanaa, which has one of the lowest debt-servicing ratios among developing nations, forecasts that spending will rise to 24.8 billion riyals (\$2.77 billion) in 1990, against 21 billion riyals (\$2.30 billion) the previous year. North Yemen became an oil exporter in 1987 and now produces around 190,000 barrels per day (b/d). The International Monetary Fund has said North Yemen's total debt stood at around \$3 billion at the end of 1987.

U.S.-GCC trade increases

ABU DHABI (R) — The United States has boosted trade with Gulf Arab countries since the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq 18 months ago, the U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was said. Edward Walker said in a statement that total U.S.-GCC trade in 1989 rose to \$15.5 billion from \$13.3 billion in 1988. The Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE, Oman and Qatar — showed a surplus of \$2.6 billion in 1989, against a \$1.8 billion in 1988. The biggest Middle East market for U.S. goods is Saudi Arabia. Most of U.S. imports from the GCC are oil while it sells mainly vehicles, capital, and consumer goods to the GCC. "With the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war in place, it is the intention of the U.S. government to focus on building anew business, social, and educational ties with all Arab Gulf states," Walker said.

The disputes, unprecedented before Poland threw off communist rule last year, were aired at tough talks in Warsaw last week on a Polish-Soviet trade agreement for 1991-93 which is intended to put their relations on a new footing.

The two countries signed a 1990 trade protocol only at the last minute after the Soviet delegation had reached Warsaw airport on their way home. But they clashed on major issues.

Swiecki, who will lead a delegation to Moscow for more talks next month, said Warsaw wanted a new era of hard currency and free market relations with Moscow. But it could not move too fast nor accept conversion of its rouble debt.

"Deputy Prime Minister (Stanislaw) Starzynski proposed effective hard currency trade from Jan. 1, 1991, for everything," Swiecki said, noting that both countries calculated that Poland would be the loser in the new relationship.

Once Soviet enterprises had to pay hard currency they would go outside Poland for better quality. Polish producers would then face worldwide competition for the Soviet market and would also have to find new markets.

"A lot of our industries have been working only for the Soviet market and in order to make them competitive to sell on other markets we need some time," Swiecki said.

Poland would also lose more than one billion transfer roubles to the next couple of years through the loss of existing trade advantages, he added.

Connexon agreement

Warsaw had therefore invoked a Connexon agreement, signed in Sofia in January, on compensation for member states which suffer losses in the switch to hard currency trade between them.

"We asked them, if they are so radical in turning to hard currency trade immediately, please give us your proposals for... compensation for our potential loss," Swiecki said.

He expected a reply at next month's talks in Moscow, which would also tackle the debt issue.

Swiecki said Poland's debt accumulated because of a Connexon agreement in the early 1970s which departed from the group's general rules and meant Warsaw paid Moscow far more for Soviet goods than Moscow paid for Polish goods.

Aeroflot invests in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Soviet airline Aeroflot has set up a joint-venture airline with Turkey's Net Holding and three Turkish businessmen. Tuna Bayrac, assistant general manager of the new company, Greenair, said Friday that flights would begin in May using three Soviet-made TU-154 M aircraft. Greenair, capitalised at five billion lira and based in Istanbul, is owned 49 per cent by Aeroflot, 30 per cent by Net Holding and the remaining 21 per cent by three Turkish businessmen. The airline will fly major domestic and international routes and will expand its fleet and routes according to passenger loading, Bayrac said.

ARMENIAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, March 25, 1990

Central Bank official rates

Buy	Sell	French franc	116.3	117.0
671.0	675.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	435.0	437.6
1074.6	1081.0	Dutch guilder	348.2	350.3
392.0	394.4	Swedish crown	108.6	110.3
191.2	192.3	Italian lira (for 100)	53.3	53.6
441.9	444.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	191.2	192.3

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 26, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This brings delays, frustrations and limitations if you are trying to rush anything or have resentments for the actions of others. See that all that you do is above reproach.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you are able to contact a reluctant associate early you will be able to get that person to go along with a plan you deem for joint benefit.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day for you to get into whatever your activities are early and to utilise the day and evening to achieve much that is constructive.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You clearly see the best means by which you can put across that inspired way in market an ability which can make your dreams come true.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take some time out to forget yourself in finding out just what those who dwell beneath your roof would be like you do and carry through with their plans.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever communications you have agreed to do or will give you a boost in the right direction should be put into motion now.

TODAY'S CHILD: If your child were born today he or she will become a born trouble-shooter who has every sort of chance to utilize all the abundant energy and vitality with which he or she is endowed. Teaching this child self-control early will pay off for vocational success.

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank Geary



Players tourney to stay in Key Biscayne

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — The chairman of the International Players Championships said Saturday he expects the tournament to remain on Key Biscayne for another year despite a legal battle over plans to build a permanent stadium.

The dispute has prompted speculation that the \$2.5-million event will move. Scottsdale, Arizona, has expressed an interest in hosting the tournament, tennis most prestigious except for the Grand Slams.

I can't imagine not being back here in 1991, chairman Butch Buchholz said. Something very, very radical would have to happen.

A decision about next year's tournament must be made by June, Buchholz said.

Our mission is to stay here, he said. If we can't for legal reasons, well put it out to bid.

The tournament stadium, located on Dade County property, has had temporary grandstands since Buchholz and his brother Cliff brought the event from Doral Raton, Florida, to Key Biscayne in 1987.

The association of tennis professionals and the Women's International Tennis Association insist the tournament cannot remain on the island off Miami unless a permanent 12,000-seat stadium is built, and the groups want construction to start by December 1991.

A world-class event needs a permanent stadium, Hamilton Jordan, outgoing head of the ATP, said recently.

Key Biscayne homeowners have filed a lawsuit to block a permanent stadium, saying it would be used for events other than tennis and would lead to further development. There also is opposition to a permanent stadium because the two tennis groups are asking taxpayers to pay for \$13 million of the estimated \$16-million construction cost.

If we can't do it here, well get 12,000 seats somewhere else, Buchholz said.

We've bent over backwards and spent thousands and thousands of dollars trying to relieve them of their anxieties, which were that were going to have rock concerts, mud-wrestling and tractor pulls, he said.

The county has assured them that's not going to happen. We've assured them that's not going to happen.

It's unknown when a court decision will be issued on the lawsuit but, whatever the ruling, the losing side is expected to appeal.

The event was created to be the players' own tournament. Ironically, they have been most critical of it.

Seles wins 2nd tournament title

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Monica Seles made it look easy, partly because it was.

I was sure Gabriela was going to get to the finals, said Seles, who earned \$112,500. But these players ranked for in the 20s and 30s can be dangerous if they have a good week.

There have also been several upsets in the men's draw, where no. 3 seed Stefan Edberg will meet no. 5 Andre Agassi in Sunday's finals.

Edberg beat Agassi in four sets March 12 in the finals of the championships at Indian Wells, California.

Seles, whose other tournament win came to the Virginia Slims of Houston last April, had won only two of five matches this year when she arrived at Key Biscayne.

I can say I was full of confidence, she said. I didn't think I was going to win it. I was happy just to get to the quarterfinals.

Wiesner, seeded 15th and ranked 29th, beat players

round and top seed Gabriela Sabatini lost in the quarterfinals.

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Wiesner, seeded 15th and ranked 29th, beat players

seeded fourth, fifth and seventh on the way to her first berth in the finals of a major tournament. But the 24-year-old Austrian had only one break point against Seles and lost it.

I really had problems with her game, Wiesner said. It's different from anybody else. She hits the ball so hard and takes it so early, you really don't have time to recover.

Seles won two quick service breaks against Wiesner for a 3-0 lead and finished the set in 28 minutes.

I was able to do a lot on her serve, Seles said. And my serve.

Wiesner was serving with a 2-2, 30-0 lead in the second set. But she lost four consecutive points, the final two on unforced errors, and never got back into the match.

I played pretty good before this match, Wiesner said. I was quite happy to reach the finals. I hope I can keep up this level of play.

Kenya loses men's individual title, but team proves depth

AIX LES BAINS, France (AP)

The track-and-field world is well aware of the prowess of Kenya's male distance runners. Now the East African nation's women are threatening to get in the act.

Even though Kenya's John Ngugi failed to win his fifth straight world cross country title Saturday, his compatriots dominated the championships, winning three of four team categories.

In addition to the senior and junior men's titles, Kenya served notice it is closing the gender gap by winning the junior women's event, with four of the top 10 finishers.

Ngugi, the pre-race favourite, finished 20th in the 12-kilometre men's race, won by Khalid Skah of Morocco. But other Kenyans

took five of the top 10 places, and did likewise in the junior men's race.

The Soviet Union won the senior women's team title, while the individual title went to Lynn Jennings, the first winner from the United States in 15 years.

Although Skah won with a strong drive, Jennings was ready for a virtual wire-to-wire victory, saying the use of a horse racing course for part of the race made her feel like a thoroughbred.

At the starting box, there was a rope in front of you, Jennings said. Then they called to the line. Somehow in translating from French to English, it made me feel like I was ready for the Kentucky Derby.

It made me feel like a steed. I remember I was pawing the ground.

Once she burst from the starting gate, the 29-year-old from New Hampshire raced away to a 12-second final margin, covering the six kilometres in 19 minutes, 21 seconds.

This was my fifth worlds, Jennings said. And now to get first place after five tries, it feels wonderful.

Jennings was second in 1986 and fourth, fourth and sixth the previous three years.

But Saturday there was no stopping her on a grassy, rolling terrain that started and ended on a turf horse track with a slight detour over a golf course.

She broke away from the pack to take a 10-metre lead after the first kilometre and stretched it throughout the race.

Skah: A new Moroccan star emerges

AIX-LES-BAINS, France (R) — Morocco unearthed a new star of long-distance running as the relatively unknown Khalid Skah won the world cross country title for king and country.

The impetuous manner in which Skah disposed of the challenge of the powerful Kenyan team and the impish way in which he celebrated his victory marked him out as an authentic new character on the athletics scene.

The 23-year-old law student is the second Moroccan to follow Said Aouita into the spotlight —

after Brahim Boutayeb's equally surprising Olympic 10,000 metres triumph in Seoul — and is unlikely to be the last.

There are a lot of others just waiting to come through, the chirpy and likeable Skah said with a grin after beating the world's best Saturday.

Skah showed an Aouita touch in the race, moving to the front 300 metres from the end of the

12.3-kilometres course with a blistering turn of pace which the four thoroughly Kenyans with him could not match.

He confidently bled off their challenge in the final sprint, waved to acknowledge his victory 10 metres from the line and crossed the tape just ahead of Moses Tanni and Julius Korir.

"I dedicate my victory to the king of Morocco," he said. "I am

very proud and very happy. I came here to win and I won — thanks to the hard work and preparation I put in."

If Skah owes something to Aouita's racing style, he is anything but a carbon copy.

His exuberant, extrovert personality contrasts sharply with that of the supremely record-breaker and his training methods are highly individualistic, too.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AK8 ♠AKJ1052 06 ♣Q974

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦Q753 ♠Q965 ♣Q162 ♣7

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass

What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AK73 ♠J97 ♣J873 ♣92

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

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BEETLEJUICE



Duke in fourth final in 5 years

NEW YORK (AP) — Just when it seemed the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament couldn't get any wilder, it did.

Christian Laettner's 5-metre jumper at the buzzer beat Connecticut 79-78 in overtime Saturday and sent Duke to its fourth final in five years. Then Arkansas withstood a late Texas rally and defeated the longhorns for the third time this season, 88-85, to reach the national semifinals for the first time since 1978.

Fantastic finishes have been common in this year's tournament, where a third of the games have been decided by three points or less, five have gone to overtime, and almost a dozen have gone down to the last shot.

Tbird-ranked Connecticut, which beat Clemson on Tate Georges buzzer-beater in the east regional semifinals, was beaten by a similar shot Saturday at the meadowlands in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

It appears to have been an improbable victory when Dukes Ala Abdellatif was called for goaltending on a missed free throw by Nadav Henefeld with 1:28 left. The free throw was ruled good and Henefeld then hit the bonus for a 78-77 lead.

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But George missed a 3-pointer with 11 seconds left, then just missed a steal and slapped the ball out of bounds, giving Duke a chance with 2.3 seconds remaining.

Vincent continues extortion investigation on Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball commissioner Fay Vincent said Saturday that he is looking into the relationship of George Steinbrenner and gambler Howie Spira, indicted Friday on charges of extortion involving the Yankees.

Vincent, speaking to reporters at the Baltimore Orioles spring training facility in Sarasota, Florida, said he is investigating reports of a \$40,000 payment from Steinbrenner to Spira.

Steinbrenner has said the money was a gift given out of the goodness of my heart.

What I've said is that I am looking

Hungarians vote in free elections

BUDAPEST (AP) — More than half the registered voters in some places had cast ballots by midday Sunday, as millions vote in Hungary's first free national elections in 42 years.

The ruling Socialist Party candidates were expected to fare poorly in the parliamentary elections, despite their efforts to win approval by leading Hungary toward democracy in the last year.

Premier Miklos Nemeth, a Reform Socialist candidate and a key engineer of the nation's conversion to democracy, conceded before casting his ballot that he probably would not win his election and declared he would relinquish control head high and with a clear conscience.

Selection officials reported a turnout of nearly 50 per cent in some Budapest wards by noon (1000 GMT), four hours after the voting began and eight hours before the last polls were scheduled to close at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT). Some unofficial results were expected by late Sunday or early Monday.

Nemeth, who voted at a state-run kindergarten serving as one of the 11,000 polling stations, declined to predict the chances of his Socialist Party, the new name for the Communist Party that took power in 1947.

The only thing I hope for is that a strong government is created, Nemeth said. He added that only a government not hamstrung by the opposition can deal with the nation's ailing economy.

His comments reflected wide-

spread acceptance that the Socialists will not do well despite its role, unique in Eastern Europe, in steering Hungary to democratic reform after they defected from the Communist Party in October.

Instead of crediting the Socialists for volunteering to play by democratic rules, most voters remember the excesses of more than four decades of one-party rule that have made Communists unpopular throughout the Soviet Bloc.

I won't consider it an act of God if I don't make it into government, Nemeth told reporters outside the polling centre. I will hand over the reins head high and with a clear conscience. I don't have bitterness in my heart but satisfaction.

The Socialists were unlikely to play a role much beyond Sunday, with leading parties such as the Democratic Forum and the Free Democrats repeatedly stating they would not accept them as government partners.

Democratic Forum Chairman Jozsef Antall refused comment when asked by reporters about possible coalition partners.

He also declined to predict on how well his party would do.

Antall, a medical historian, said of the elections: "We want a free Hungary. And I'm happy that we've come this far."

Free Democrat leader Janos Kis said he was a moderate optimist about his party's chances, adding he expected it to be one of the top two finishers.

Hungary, Romania on coalition course

BUCHAREST (AP) — Hungary Sunday denounced an arson fire that damaged the Bucharest office of Hungary's Malev airlines as a "terrorist" attack.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people rallied to protest alleged plans by ethnic Hungarians in Transylvania to secede from Romania.

Hours after the blaze at the Malev office, Hungary demanded Romania take steps against what it branded terrorist acts and protect Hungarian citizens and offices in the country, Hungary's MTI news agency said.

Despite appeals from the Romanian government for calm, anti-Hungarian feeling erupted at rallies by several hundred people in Bucharest. Smaller protests were reported in other towns.

In Targu Mures, where the strife dividing Transylvania's ethnic Hungarian minority and Romanian nationalists exploded in violence last week, about 1,000 Romanian churchgoers prayed for peace and an end to ethnic unrest in the square outside the city's Orthodox Cathedral.

In Bucharest, about 700 people chanting "Targu Mures is Romania and barbarians behind bars" circled the headquarters of the interim government on Victory Square. Troops and paramilitary police armed with automatic rifles and batons guarded the government building.

Lithuanian legislators joke nervously as Soviet tanks go by

VILNIUS, USSR (AP) — For nearly four hours in the predawn darkness, Lithuanian legislators joked nervously and prepared for the worst as Soviet tanks headed towards their capital, then rolled by without firing a shot.

While the city slept early Saturday, 98 lawmakers watched and traded macabre jokes as paratroopers armed with automatic weapons, 59 armoured vehicles and 50 trucks rumbled by the parliament building.

From midnight (2200 GMT) until nearly 4 a.m. (0200 GMT), they did not know whether Lithuania's attempt to declare its independence from the Soviet Union would end in bloodshed 13 days after it began.

Despite Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's promise he would not use force, the psychological warfare escalated all week with ultimatums, demands that Lithuania disarm and brief displays of military might.

We were almost sure they would not, said legislator Andrius Butkavicius.

But as the hours wore on after Lithuanian police alerted the parliament that the armoured column was 70 kilometres away from Vilnius, the jokes tended toward lines such as, remember Allende, and remember Czechoslovakia, said legislator Valdas Katkus.

The references were to the Marxist president of Chile who was slain or committed suicide in a 1973 coup and the 1968 Soviet-led invasion that ended Czechoslovakia's "Prague Spring" reforms.

We decided we were equal forces, since the first report put the number of vehicles in the column at 96 — the same number of deputies still in the parliament chamber after midnight, said legislator Jozsef Karvels, a Klaipeda Harbour pilot.

Some people were nervous, especially when they noticed that the Communist Party leaders were not among us, Karvels said. We decided they knew something and we didn't.

Karvels was joking, but his quip revealed an element of doubt about the status of Lithuanian Communist leaders. Most of those elected in the republic's recent parliamentary balloting broke with Moscow to support Lithuania's independence.

The Communist Party leader, Algirdas Brazauskas, said he left the session Friday evening and slept through the excitement.

But as the lawmakers smiled and joked, they prepared for the worst.

The concern was heightened because two Soviet ultimatums expired Saturday: One threatening forcible capture of Lithuanian deserters from the Soviet army; the other ordering to halt to the organization of a Lithuanian border guard.

At 2:25 a.m. (0025 GMT), the parliament's press office sent an urgent message to international news media saying the tanks were just 30 kilometres away.

Please help spread the news, it pleaded.

By that time, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis had suggested adoption of an emergency resolution stating that in the event of Soviet aggression, government power would be delegated to the man who has served as Lithuania's diplomatic representative in Washington for years, Stasys Lozoraitis.

Deputies wrangled over the wording, finally prompting an exasperated Landsbergis to warn that the Soviet troops could arrive before the body acted.

At 2:43 a.m. (0043 GMT) the legislators adopted the resolution. Less than an hour later, some 30 deputies raced from the building to lean over a railing 100 metres away and watch the armoured column, a seemingly endless row of headlights in the dark.

At that point, Butkavicius said, they still did not know whether the force would veer off the highway to take over the city. He said he found a sympathetic soldier from the neighbouring republic of Latvia who told him the unit was heading for the Siauliai Miesciels army base in north Vilnius.

Karvels said there was still enough concern that ten lawmakers spent what remained of the night in the parliament building with Landsbergis in case the army came to arrest him.

It is not just Lithuania's fate that hangs in the balance Saturday morning, said legislator Valodyta Yarmolenko.

If the situation is destabilized here, it will be destabilized throughout the Soviet Union, he said.

Column 10

Pyramid of unknown pharaonic queen uncovered

CAIRO (R) — French archaeologists uncovered the base of a limestone pyramid apparently belonging to a queen missing from ancient Egyptian history, according to reports in Egyptian newspapers. The 4,200-year-old pyramid in the Necropolis of Saqqara, southwest of Cairo, may complete a link in King Pepi I's life. According to historians Pepi, who reigned in the sixth dynasty, was married to three women, but until now only two of his wives' pyramids had been uncovered. But Saturday's reports said the French discovery might be the resting place of the missing third wife according to murals inscribed with hieroglyphics inside the sand-covered pyramid which once stood 20 metres high. The newspaper quoted Zahi Hawass, director-general of the Giza Plateau, as saying the pyramid's discovery "was a new and important addition to ancient Egypt's history."

Experts allowed to examine Hitler's Berlin bunker

WEST BERLIN (R) — The Berlin bunker in which Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler and his mistress killed themselves at the end of World War II will be opened for experts to examine. West Berlin city administrators said on Tuesday that an east German official had given permission for experts to examine the ruins of the bomb-proof shelter near the Brandenburg Gate. The Soviet Red Army was already fighting in the streets of Berlin when Hitler and Eva Braun committed suicide in the underground bunker on April 30, 1945. Aides burned their bodies. The same day, Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels poisoned his six children, himself and his wife in the bunker. The shelter, built on two floors during the war, lies 16 metres under the garden of Hitler's former headquarters in the Reich Chancellery. Efforts by Soviet occupation forces to blow it up after the war were only partly successful. The West Berlin administration said the lower floor was under water at present.

Trotsky letter to Lenin auctioned

NEW YORK (AP) — A handwritten 1918 letter from Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky to V.I. Lenin was auctioned for \$27,500, an "extreme bargain" in the view of the buyer, a California book dealer. But an original manuscript of his later actor Orson Welles failed to draw a bid after being offered for \$11,000 at the Swann Galleries auction. Louis Weinstein, owner of the Heritage Bookshop Inc. of Los Angeles, bought the one-page Trotsky letter, and said he planned to offer it for resale at a New York book fair this weekend. "It was very cheap. I expected it would go for \$60,000 to \$70,000," he said. The letter, addressed "Dear Vladimir Ilyich," is considered historically significant because it outlined Trotsky's own plan for a "no war, no peace" settlement with the so-called central powers, led by Germany, near the end of World War I. It also was intended for Lenin's cohort, Josef Stalin. The day's most successful bid was \$57,750 for a 1663 collection of William Shakespeare's "comedies, histories and tragedies," a price nearly three times the initial bid of \$20,000.

Ghostbusting, Hong Kong style

HONG KONG (R) — If you've got ghosts in Hong Kong, who you gonna call? Answer: The colonial government. Officials in the British colony have agreed to pay one million H.K. dollars (\$128,200) for ghostbusters — in the form of Taoist priests — to rid the ancient village of Ha Tsuen of evil spirits. Residents of the village, which dates back to the 13th century Sung Dynasty, claim evil spirits have been disturbed by tunneling associated with a sewage treatment project in a nearby hill, where many of their ancestors are buried. "Ha Tsuen people are very superstitious," said Tang Chik-Kit, chairman of the village rural committee. "We fear the sewage project will disturb evil spirits near the building site. Although I can't prove it, I believe there are evil spirits on the hill," he said. Most of the cash has gone to build a temporary temple for a group of Taoist priests to carry out 72-hour "fung shui" rites to cleanse the area of evil spirits. Fung shui — literally wind and water in Cantonese — is the art of balancing the five basic elements of gold, wood, water, fire and earth.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	8	37	58 48 Clear
ATHENS	10	50	25 79 Clear
Bahrain	21	70	25 77 Cloudy
BANGKOK	25	75	35 85 Cloudy
Buenos Aires	25	80	24 75 Cloudy
CAIRO	11	52	73 Clear
CHICAGO	-4	23	35 60 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	8	37	10 59 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	0	37	14 57 Cloudy
GENEVA	14	57	17 83 Clear
HONG KONG	24	75	27 85 Clear
ISTANBUL	6	43	19 66 Clear
LONDON	0	41	10 50 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	14	58	22 71 Cloudy
MADRID	0	49	18 64 Rain
MECCA	23	73	33 91 Cloudy
MONTEREAL	-8	46	01 30 Snow
MOSCOW	0	45	08 43 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	18	52	26 78 Clear
NEW YORK	0	34	04 38 Clear
PARIS	0	38	18 65 Cloudy
ROME	0	45	18 68 Cloudy
SINGAPORE	0	44	18 65 Cloudy
TOKYO	0	48	13 65 Clear
VIENNA	0	44	18 65 Cloudy

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The Metropolitan Cathedral, which has been under construction for 30 years and has been closed for worship since October, was reopened for the commemoration. The facade was festooned with huge banners quoting religious scripture.

One, citing John 10:15 read: I give my life for my flock.

The service was to be the last public religious homage to Romero in decades, as he is soon to be proposed for beatification, the first step toward sainthood. Church doctrine prohibits public homage to candidates for sainthood.

Local church officials and many city dwellers also joined the procession and attended the mass.

The holy father exhorts all those involved to renewed effort so that love triumphs over hate, union over division, justice over iniquity and truth over lies and deception, the message added.

The decade-old civil war, which began engulfing this nation when Romero was killed, continues unabated and the death toll surpassed 72,000 late last year during a month-long offensive by leftist rebels.

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